



THE FREE TRADER.

Ottawa, Ill., Friday, April 18, 1845.

We expect to hear by the 12th of next month from the bondholders in regard to the canal. The contract between the state and the capitalists was signed by the parties in Boston, and sent to Europe for the ratification of the bondholders. The general impression is that it will receive the sanction of the capitalists in Europe, and that the work on the canal will be resumed about the 1st of June.

About Political Traders, Apostates, &c.

The history of noted politicians always abounds in useful and instructive lessons. From their rise, progress, and, what is so frequent, their downfall, the young and inexperienced aspirant may gather a fund of knowledge that will enable him to run clear of many of the rocks and shoals upon which stouter vessels are often wrecked.

Who, for example, may not learn wisdom from the history of John Tyler? Taken by the whig party, from comparative obscurity, without any shining qualities to recommend him, not even sympathizing with them in principle, a mere catch-vote, he was raised to the second office in the gift of the nation, and Providence interposing, as if to confound the whigs by their own devices, he was exalted to the first. A rise so high, and so sudden and unexpected, would have been full of imminence to the stoutest intellect—to Tyler it was ruin. Forgetting that at best he was but a fifth-rate man, barely a respectable county attorney, without a single attribute of true greatness, in his giddy height, incited by a newly stimulated ambition, he dared flights from which a Napoleon might have shrunk. To break up the party organizations of the day, to make himself the head of a new and victorious party, to have himself elected president, and to attain for himself a name among the mighty men of the earth—these were among his wild dreamings—and to attain such ends, all the means and appliances within his power were directed with a steady aim. Power, patronage, influence—all were alike but the merchandise to barter for political supremacy and position. Vain man! to think by political trading and corruption to rise in a nation of virtuous freemen. In his self-assumed greatness the people but saw how little he was, and he who by his "flight sublime" thought to astonish a world, astonished it but by the precipitancy of his fall, and never "nor man nor fiend hath fallen so far."

In Gov. Porter of Pennsylvania we have another striking instance of self-overleaping ambition. With fair abilities, unassuming, little known, uncontaminated by the corruptions of mere partyism, a democrat from love of his country, he was taken "fresh from the ranks of the people" and placed in the executive chair of his native state. Distrustful of his own abilities, and seeking but the public good, he called around him the wisest heads in the state, and the first term of his administration was distinguished by its moderation and wisdom, and stood in bold contrast with the profligate and corrupt dynasty that had immediately preceded it. The name of Porter and honest statesmanship were esteemed terms that might be used interchangeably. The time came for a new election; the democrats held their convention; Porter was re-nominated by acclamation; and the whigs put against him their strongest man; and the democrats succeeded by the overwhelming majority of 20,000. The brilliancy of this triumph was Porter's ruin. Dazzled by his unanticipated success, deeming his popularity boundless, and becoming "exceeding wise in his own conceit," no power so great, no station so exalted, but he fancied within his grasp. But he would rise by steps. A seat in the United States senate he deemed to choose for himself at the end of his gubernatorial term. And now all things must subserve to the attainment of this object. His old and tried friends, the hoary veterans of democracy, that erst had guided his trembling feet in safety, but who scorned to play the sycophant or minister to his inordinate ambition, one by one were dismissed from his presence; their places filled by a motley train of political weathercocks and bucksters, bought for their servility, and not content with even these, the Babylonish harlot Tylerism was called in to mingle her pollutions with the rest. The result is easily surmised. The democracy cast him off as they would an alder—the whigs shunned his touch like a deadly contagion—the few miserable tools he had bought up clung to him only till his official term expired—and then all forsook him—and hated, loathed, friendless, "solitary and alone," he sinks back into political nothingness, "a nameless and forgotten thing."

"Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall." In the fate of Porter and Tyler the man of power and place may read as certainly as foreknowledge could tell him, the inevitable end that awaits him if he prostitutes his office to subserve his own ambitious purposes. A strong man, with great apparent influence may be bought by a place, but you hold him but by the place—friendship, true, fast, goes not by such a barter—and then, in making the trade, have you reckoned how many friends you are about to sell—true friends, one of whom is worth a hundred boughten sycophants? Be careful! True friendship, honorable preferment, and true greatness can never be bought. They are the rewards of a long and unremitted toil of honest toil; and were to him that would make them a merchantable commodity!

"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!"

March of Illinois.—S. H. ANDERSON, formerly Lt. Governor of this state, has been appointed by the president marshal for Illinois, in the place of Mr. Hope, whose temporary appointment expired.

The Hessian fly is ruining the wheat crop in Georgia.

Rhode Island Election.—The Dorr Party Triumphant!

With proud satisfaction we announce the triumph of the principles of the Declaration of Independence in Rhode Island! At the late election the issue was made on the Dorr question—for and against his unconditional release, and the result shows that Charles Jackson, the candidate in favor of Dorr's unconditional release, has beaten Fenner, the present incumbent and who is opposed to liberation, about 150 votes! The liberation Congressmen have also been elected.

Thus has the unrighteous conduct and persecution of the monarchists of Rhode Island been signally rebuffed and trampled upon by the republican spirit of her sons. The battle was a hard one, but the banner of Freedom has been planted on her prison walls, and waves in triumph over a persecuted martyr's head.

Annexation in Texas.

From the remarks of some of the leading papers of Texas on the house annexation resolutions before the news of their passage through the senate had reached that country, it was feared that after all Texas might not assent to the measure. But these fears were evidently without any real grounds. The news of the final passage of the resolutions reached Galveston on the 19th ult., and was received with almost universal demonstrations of joy. An immense meeting of the citizens was immediately held, and a committee appointed to superintend the firing of a salute of 100 guns on the occasion. A number of resolutions were also adopted, all evincing the most ardent attachment to the United States, and a desire to become part and parcel of the Union at the earliest possible day.

Judge Shields.

The Hon. Jas. Shields, we learn from the St. Clair Banner, has received his commission as commissioner of the General Land Office, and left for Washington on the 31 inst. The Banner says, "We understand that this appointment of Judge S. was wholly unsolicited by him, but that he was warmly recommended for the place by the entire congressional delegation from this state—a spontaneous tribute to his worth, from men who have known him long and well."

Judge S. is undoubtedly one of our ablest and very best men. Not only his political friends but those opposed to him in politics, bear testimony to his merits. The Alton Telegraph, in taking leave of him pays him the following handsome tribute:

In taking leave of Judge Shields, we must be permitted to express our deep regret at the void his absence will create, not only upon the bench, where he has so uniformly distinguished himself, as an able, honest, and impartial judge; but in society, where he was universally esteemed, respected, and beloved. In the various offices he has filled in Illinois—as representative, as auditor, and as judge,—he has always exhibited the same indefatigable industry and unerring attention to his public duties. Those same business qualifications, aided by strict integrity, and an elevated order of character, will be carried into his new and more extended and responsible field of labor; and we entertain no doubt but that he will fully sustain his former reputation.

Gustavus Karner, Esq., of Belleville, has been appointed by the governor, to fill the vacancy on the supreme bench occasioned by the withdrawal of Judge Shields.

We notice, also, by the St. Clair Banner, that Mr. Engelmann, the gentlemanly redactor of the Belleville Beebecker, has received the appointment of clerk of the circuit court for St. Clair county.

Notice to Quit.

The anti-Mormons of Hancock county a few weeks ago held a meeting, and appointed a committee, who waited upon Mr. Backenstos, one of the members of the legislature from that county, and gave him notice that he must leave the county within a given time. Mr. B. is what is called a "Jack Mormon," that is, friendly to the Mormons, though not one himself; and the reason for this high-handed proceeding is, that, in a speech in the legislature he used rather plain language in reference to the ruffians and cut-throats that were engaged in the assassination of the Smiths. We have intelligence from Hancock later by four or five days than the time set for Mr. B. to leave, but he had not yet left, and had no notion of doing it, and no attempt had been made to drive him away. It is understood that he is prepared to give all such as may approach him for the purpose of committing violence, a suitable reception.

"Alleganza."

Who steals my purse, steals trash; But he that filches from me my good name, Robs me of that which—'tis better had I never had!

The loafer that gave a celebrated passage in Shakespeare the above reading, could doubtless plead in justification of the mutilation (that it was necessary in order to make it correspond with the peculiar facts of his case; and we plead the same justification for using the amended instead of the original reading in reference to our country. It may be said as truly of our country as of the loafer, that it *has* good name. "Columbia," "America," and "United States," names by which we are in the habit of designating ourselves, to most nations point out this country no more definitely than "the Kingdom," or "Europe," would France to us. We are glad to see that this matter is beginning to attract the attention of our eastern savans. We have read with interest a long report that has lately been published in the New York papers from a committee of the New York Historical Society, on the subject of the irrelevant appellations at present used for this country, and the report suggests that it hereafter be called by the name of "Alleganza." Some cogent reasons are given why we should adopt this name, and we know not why it would not answer as well as any we can get. Certain it is, the inconvenience of having no distinctive appellation for our country has been felt long enough, and unless we speedily adopt for ourselves some name, there will be one given us by our obliging neighbors, and one too that we may not relish. At present we are known in some parts of the earth only as "Yankees," and unless we adopt some other name soon, this country will surely at no distant day be known as "Yankeeedom," or "Yankee-land." This, in parts of the country where, at present, the term "Yankee" is always associated with the idea of wooden nutmegs, horn gun flint-

and every species of knavery, would be considered peculiarly hard, and before they would submit to it, they would in all probability prefer dissolution. The magnitude of this subject is thus apparent: it involves not only our "good name," but our actual existence as a nation.

Switzerland.

The peace of this interesting country is at present disturbed, and its very existence threatened, by a most exciting religious controversy. It appears that one of the cantons, Lucerne, proposes, and insists upon, establishing the Jesuits at the head of its system of education. This is opposed by the other cantons, some proposing to take up arms to prevent it, and a special or extraordinary diet has been called to deliberate on the subject. A majority of the cantons instructed their delegates to the diet to oppose the Jesuits in every form, and in the canton de Vaud, because the grand council refused to give their delegates decisive instructions against the Jesuits, the people took the matter into their own hands, and in less than two days completely revolutionized the government of the canton, and elected a new grand council, who sent delegates to the diet that would obey the wishes of their constituents.

The extraordinary or special diet met at Zurich on the 24th February, and the great question before it was, whether the admission of the Jesuits into the cantons is a federal question, or merely a matter concerning each particular canton. But first had to be settled the question of admitting the delegates from de Vaud, as their admission would imply a sanction of the revolution in that canton. The matter was discussed two days, and they were finally admitted by a vote of twelve and a half cantons to nine. The main business of the council then opened with a motion for the expulsion of the Jesuits, and the debate on it was of the most exciting character. The entrance to the chamber was obstructed by dense masses of people, and it was only through the aid of a military force that a passage could be made for the members. The liberals denounced the Jesuits without any reservation. Some of the leaders charged them with being corrupt in morals; having lust for power; dangerous, because the laws of the order require implicit obedience, and because they have caused civil commotions, and furnished arms wherewith to assail the liberties of Switzerland. They are enemies of liberty, enemies of the press, enemies of liberal education, and are altogether unfit to direct the education of Swiss children. They secretly wish to destroy the Protestant faith, and establish Romanism upon its foundation. If they are dangerous in a monarchy, they are doubly so in a republic. These are the main arguments used for the expulsion of the Jesuits. The advocates of the Jesuits denied these charges, and asserted that the protestants were constantly making aggressions upon the Catholics, and hence the source of the difficulties in some of the cantons. The deputies who defended the Catholics were violent in their language, declaring that any attempts to expel the Jesuits would be met with organized resistance. It could not be done, they said, except by force of arms, and an appeal to such force is what they defied them to do.

The diet adjourned amidst great excitement, without any definite action on this important question.

Magnetic Light.

We published an account some weeks ago of the discovery in Cincinnati of the magnetic light, and much was said of its importance, characterizing it as the greatest discovery of the age, &c. Much of the poetry of the matter, however, is dissipated by a communication on the subject in the Cincinnati Gazette, by Dr. Locke, of that city. The Dr. says magnetic light is no new discovery. He has seen known and exhibited for ten years. He himself has produced a light, two inches from the battery, equal to the sun. But it is a flitting "fire by lamp," of no economical use. In order to furnish a light equal to the sun 200 feet from the battery, he says, it would require no less than 1,440,000 batteries, at an expense of seventy-two millions of dollars, as the number of batteries must be multiplied in proportion to the squares of the distances. The Dr. adds, however:

The public will please to observe, that I impute nothing improper to the persons claiming to have invented the magnetic light; for I know nothing of what they have done, nor do I say that a magnetic light is all absurdity; it belongs not to me to say what has been, or what may be discovered in electricity. If any person shall improve the light so as to make it useful, he will deserve credit. But I have seen no evidence that such an improvement has been made.

Fortification of the Temple at Nauvoo.—We learn from the Warsaw Signal, which has received the intelligence from a gentleman direct from Nauvoo, that a new revelation has been received in relation to the temple. The work on that structure is to be almost entirely suspended for the present, and the whole energies of the saints are to be devoted to the building of a wall or rampart around the edifice. This wall is to enclose six acres; the temple being in the centre. It is to be fourteen feet high, six feet thick, and composed of solid stone masonry. The work has already been commenced, and hundreds of hands are employed in carrying it forward. Some of the saints have had a revelation that Orson Hyde is to be the successor of Jo Smith, as prophet.

Girard College.—This magnificent structure, we see it stated in the Philadelphia Inquirer, will be completed by next spring. Its whole cost will be some \$5,000,000. It is designed for the gratuitous education of the orphans of the city and county of Philadelphia. It has been building some twelve or fifteen years, and many orphans, who, at the time of Stephen Girard's death, expected to share some of the benefits of his liberality, have grown up, and gone off the stage, and themselves left orphans that will barely be in time to reap the fruits of that noble bequest. Girard was a Frenchman, and a Catholic, and it is fortunate the main structure of the college is fire proof, or the "Natives" of that city would probably burn it down.

Small Pox at Joliet.—The Signal, of the 15th inst. says: "We learn that this baneful disease has made its appearance in our town, though to no considerable extent."

New York Charter Election.

The democrats, at the election on the 9th inst., swept New York city with irresistible force. Heavymeyer, democrat, was elected mayor by a majority of nearly 7000 over the Natives and 16,000 over the whigs, and lacks but a few hundred votes of beating both. The democrats had a majority in all the wards but three.

The democrats also elected their mayor, the first for a long while, in the city of Albany, by 24 majority.

Connecticut Election.

The election in Connecticut, held on the 7th inst., has gone for the whigs. Baldwin, whig, is elected governor over Toucey, democrat, by a large majority. Whigs have been elected to congress from each of the four districts, all of which, in the last congress, were represented by democrats.

Mr. Marcy.—Major Noah, in speaking in his "Messenger" of President Polk's cabinet, makes the following *naïve* remarks:

New York has an able and honest man in William L. Marcy. We have known him from the time he kept a little wooden law office in Troy, 8 by 10, with a few law books and a good French library. He edited the Budget, and the National Advocate, and together we achieved in this state more political victories than Ney or Scott, but being a faster runner, he got into the governor's chair before I could come up to him. My misfortune was that I sprang from an old aristocratic family in the time of the Deluge, and my ancestors came out of Egypt with the Israelites.

First Arrival.—The steamer Madison, from Buffalo, arrived at Chicago on Saturday the 12th inst. The voyage was boisterous and protracted. The Journal says she "met with a severe storm on Lake Huron which compelled her to put back twice, the boat being covered with ice and snow in a short time. The straits are somewhat impeded by floating ice, but not in sufficient quantity to offer any serious impediments to the passage of vessels."

Disruptive Fire at Carlisle, Pa.—On the 24th ult. a most destructive fire broke out in Carlisle, the county seat of Cumberland county. The principal property destroyed was the Court House and the Town Hall, containing several engines and other fire apparatus. The principal portion of the county records and papers was saved, but in a somewhat damaged state. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

Scarcity of Beef in the East.—It is stated in the Baltimore Sun that beef is scarcer in that city than it has been for a number of years. The whole stock on hand comprises but 200,000 barrels, of three qualities, which is held principally by two houses, and is kept chiefly for the supply of ship stores.

Sacrilegious.—The Catholic Church at Oswego, N. Y., was entered lately and robbed of the service and altar plate and the priest's robes. The building was then set on fire, but fortunately it went out.

Spurious quarter dollars, dated 1843, composed of pewter and silvered over by the galvanic process, are in circulation and so well executed as to deceive casual observers.

An Ancient Tunnel.—A Tunnel has been discovered under the river at Marseilles, in France, which is said to surpass the one in London. It is supposed to have been constructed by the Romans. It is formed by one single vault of sixty feet span; is one fourth larger than the Thames Tunnel, and may be made as good as new by an expenditure of \$100,000.

Preparations are making for loading ships with coal in Philadelphia and New York, for the China market.

The competition between New York and Albany, per steamboat, is so great that tickets for the passage, being one hundred and sixty miles, have been recently selling at from 50 cents down as low as 12½ cents.

An Ingenious Machine.—Among the ingenious machines for which patents were issued during the past year, is one for working Tuscan braid, the operations of which are thus described in Commissioner Ellsworth's annual report: "After the pieces of straw have been deposited in a box, the whole operation of taking each separate piece, introducing, bending over, trimming off the surplus, and transferring or re-transferring the pinners or nippers by which the pieces are held, and the completed braid delivered, is carried on with the most beautiful regularity, without the hand of an attendant."

Hats and heads.—A Mr. Orlando Fish recently sent a fine hat to Henry Clay, and in his letter of presentation he says—"deprived, as we are doomed to be, of having you at our head,—will you allow us the minor pleasure of having ourselves at yours?" To this Mr. Clay replies, with characteristic naïveté, "the hat might have 'protected' a better or wiser head than mine, but no head was ever covered by a better or more elegant hat." A whig contemporary sagely remarks hereat, that Mr. Clay would make a very respectable writer of newspaper puffs!

Horrible Employment.—A London paper of February 24th relates the particulars of a police investigation, from which it appears that the keeper of a small burying ground in which, on an average, twenty-six bodies were deposited daily, had been in the habit of disinterring bodies and burning them, to make room for other interments! The atmosphere in the vicinity had been rendered intolerable. The dismal work of combustion had usually been commenced at about 11 o'clock in the evening, and continued through the night. Witnesses testified that the practice had been to disinter the bodies after two or three days, and "chop them up and burn them."



From the Pittsburgh Gazette, April 11.

AWFUL CONFLAGRATION! Pittsburgh in Ruins!

At 6 o'clock, P. M., Thursday, we sit down to our desk with a sad heart, to record the most awful calamity which ever befel any city the size of Pittsburgh. While we now write, an awful fire is raging, consuming the fairest portion of our city, and no human being can tell where it will stay its ravages. It has now been burning for six hours, and confusion reigns extreme, and it cannot be expected we shall give anything like a particular statement of a calamity so extensive and involving such fearful ruins.

The fire broke out about 12 o'clock, M., to-day, in an old frame shed on the east side of Ferry street, used, we believe, for a smoke house, immediately surrounded on two sides with old frame buildings. The weather was extremely dry, and wind blew almost a gale blowing from the west.

The houses adjoining on Second street caught fire immediately—extended over Second St. to the Globe Cotton Factory, which together with a dwelling was consumed. The 3d Presbyterian church was saved. Six or eight houses were destroyed on Ferry St.—from Ferry towards Market, sweeping every house on both sides Second, and the whole square bounded by Market, Ferry, Second and Front, leaving only one building—the square bounded by Market, Ferry, Second and Third, was also nearly entirely destroyed. The fire crossed Market at Front, and raged with awful fury—the fire absolutely appeared to dance from roof to roof, and in an incredible short space of time, three immense squares, composed mostly of warehouses, where a sea of flames. The fire then crossed Wood St. and Third. Wood St. was a sea of fire from the river to Diamond alley!

Goods removed to streets for safety were all seized upon and destroyed. The Monongahela House was destroyed, and also the Gass Works, and was only stopped in that direction, about one mile from where it commenced, from want of food to feed its voracious maw. The Monongahela Bridge is entirely destroyed.

In the very heart of the city, including most of the warehouses of our manufacturers, and our principal wholesale grocers and commission merchants, there is not one house standing that we know of.

Twenty Squares are entirely destroyed, and several parts of squares, besides all of Pipetown, and all the buildings around Bakewell's Glass Works, which were also consumed.

The loss of property must be immense. We shall not attempt to compute it. The fire spread so rapidly it was impossible to save property.—The Front Street Merchants, whose immense warehouses were full of Goods, Groceries, and Pittsburg manufactures, removed their goods to the wharf, which they covered over its whole extent, down to the water's edge, but there they caught fire, and the most of them were consumed.

Among the public buildings destroyed, are the Pittsburgh Bank, the Monongahela House, the Merchant's Hotel, the Mayor's Office, known as Philo Hall, and all our Pittsburgh Insurance Offices.

The Chronicle and Age offices were removed. The Chronicle lost its presses. The Presbyterian Advocate and Protestant Unionist offices are both destroyed.

But it is impossible for us to attempt to give the particulars of this dreadful calamity. Pittsburgh has received a dreadful blow, but we trust she will again rise from her ashes.

At this time, seven o'clock, the fire is not extending, but is yet raging with awful sublimity in the burnt district. Hundreds and hundreds of families are homeless and homeless, and their goods fill the streets. To add to the distress, the Gas Works were destroyed, and our city will be involved in darkness as soon as the lurid flames die away.

Millions of dollars will not repair the loss experienced. For extent of loss and wide-spread desolation, no fire in this country ever equalled it. To-morrow we shall be able to give more particulars.

From the Albany Journal, April 8.

Dreadful Steamboat Disaster on the Hudson River!

Wreck of the steamboat Swallow—from thirty to forty lives lost!

The steamboat Swallow, Capt. Squires, which plies between Troy and New York, on her way down the river last night, met with an accident of the most serious nature. She left here at 6 o'clock, with a considerable load of passengers, and when opposite Athens, 30 miles below this city, ran upon a small island while going at full speed. The violence of the collision was so great that the bow of the Swallow was bent nearly at right angle with the hull, and almost immediately after she struck, the water came pouring in through the opening in the bottom planks. It was nearly nine o'clock when the accident occurred, and the passengers had all taken tea and were most-

ly on the main and upper decks. A few, however, remained in the after cabin below deck.

The waiters and hands were taking supper in the forward cabin. Alarmed by the shock, they rushed aft, the chambermaid passing through the entire length of the two cabins, and ascending by the after stairs to the Ladies' Cabin, on the main deck. The water followed with great rapidity, and within three or four minutes after the accident, the lower cabin was filled with water. The greatest alarm now prevailed, and every body hurried to the state-room deck. An opening was cut through the roofing of the state-rooms, and many clambered up on that, as the boat continued to fill and settle rapidly.

At this moment, Capt. Squires heard some calls for help below, and descending to the main deck, then under water, rescued Mrs. and Miss Starbuck of Troy from imminent danger. Mrs. Starbuck an aged lady, was immediately carried to the shore in a small boat, and every attention paid to her, but the exposure and alarm proved too much for her enfeebled frame and she died shortly after reaching the shore. This is the only life yet known to have been lost, though great fears are entertained that several persons may have been drowned in the main cabin. The chambermaid, however, who ran through this cabin, after the boat struck, thinks that every one had left; and such we hope will prove to be the fact.

The rock or island on which the Swallow struck is on the west side of the channel, and within a stone's throw of the Athens' shore. The night was dark and tempestuous. Within a very few moments after the accident the Express first, and then the Rochester came alongside the wreck and took off the passengers and luggage. There were several sloops and small boats engaged in the same way.

LATER.

The Argus of April 10, says: "As yet only the upper state rooms of the wreck have been reached, and in these had been found yesterday thirteen bodies. We fear that half the sad catastrophe is not yet told."

A letter from one of the passengers on the Swallow to the Albany Journal says: "Through the ever-watchful care of Almighty God, I was enabled to rescue my beloved wife from the threatened and awful death by fire or water, or both. After being in the ice-like water up to our necks for about half an hour, we reached the hurricane deck—and eventually another boat. What has been the fate of our only son, we know not. Just at the moment the boat parted and went down, I snatched him from his berth in our state-room, and committed him to our friend Wyckoff, at his (W.'s) request, having myself to look for the safety of my wife. From that moment to this, I have been able to learn nothing of either of them."

I could give you no adequate idea of the scene, if I should attempt, and will therefore not attempt it."

The Journal says: "We learn that the hull broke in two almost immediately after the boat struck, and the water rushed into the cabins like a torrent. Many sprang overboard when the fire broke out, thinking that the only chance of escape left. It is impossible yet to guess at the number of victims of this appalling catastrophe. There is but too much reason to fear that as many as thirty or forty persons have perished!"

Did he save his Bacon?—A gentleman living in this county had occasion a short time since, to have his well cleaned out, and for that purpose had the curb removed and the pump taken up; not getting the job completed during the day it was commenced, the well was left open over night; his better half, ever careful to prevent accidents, suggested the propriety of having it covered, for fear some calves which were in the yard should fall in; the old man, however, thinking there was no danger, neglected to attend to the precaution of his wife, and the well was left open. At a late hour in the night he was awakened by his wife, who said she had heard something fall in the well, and knew it must be one of the calves—after listening for some time another splash was heard, which was supposed to be a second calf, whereupon the old man crawled out of bed and made his way out to the well, and instead of finding a calf, or a couple of them, at the bottom thereof, a friend, who had been at the smokehouse and helped himself to a couple of hams, and in attempting to make his retreat had stepped into the well, (to take a refreshing draught!) was seen trying to ascend, but in holding on to his bacon found it a difficult job, and would ever and anon slip back into the water again. Whether the good man from above assisted him out with his bacon we did not learn.—Danville (Ills.) Patriot.

Some wag in New York on the first of April engaged a negro for the promised price of \$15 to whitewash the free-stone base of the City Hall. He commenced operations with great vigor, and had performed nearly a fourth of the job, when Mayor Harper happened that way and laid an injunction on further proceeding. The chisel of the stone cutter was required to undo the negro's work.